(d) what action Government has taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) State Government has been requested to consider moderation of the rate of sales tax imposed on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and align it with the "Declared Goods" rate of 4%. Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have since reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Rajasthan has also reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4% in case of the following:—

1. Airlines which establish a 'HUB' in the State.

2. Registered Flying clubs for their training flights; and

3. Airlines which for the first time connect cities of the State having no air service, the exemption would be limited to such flights only.

Government of Maharashtra has also announced reduction of Sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.

(b) to (d) At present, scheduled domestic airlines are charging fuel surcharge varying between Rs. 1800/- to Rs. 2000/- per passenger per sector depending upon sector distance.

Domestic air fare are not regulated by the Government. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per the market forces.

Profits of cement, steel and paper manufacturing companies

†4168. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of the continuous rise in prices for years there has also been a constant increase in the profits of companies engaged in the manufacturing of cement, steel and paper;

(b) if so, the details of increase in the profits of the big companies engaged in the manufacturing of the above products during the period from April, 2006 to December, 2007; and

(c) what is the additional production capacity established and the additional investments made during the above period in each of these industries?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discovery of ancient civilization in Rajasthan

†4169. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether relics of ancient civilization have been discovered in Rajasthan apart from Pilibanga and Aaeid;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.